United Nations S/2004/203

Security Council

Distr.: General
12 March 2004

Original: English

Letter dated 12 March 2004 from the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I have the honour to refer to the summary statement by the Secretary-General concerning the list of items of which the Security Council is currently seized and the stage reached in their consideration (S/2004/20).

I should like to reiterate the Committee's continuing objection to the deletion from the aforementioned list of those items that relate to the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East, which are of special concern not only to the Committee but also to the majority of Member States. The Committee believes that, pending a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the core of which is the question of Palestine, in accordance with international legitimacy, these items should remain on the list of matters of which the Council is seized, as they continue to engage its primary responsibility with regard to the maintenance of international peace and security.

Any decision to delete those items, especially at this very critical point in international efforts to revive the political process, would go well beyond a procedural exercise and would have far-reaching negative political implications. On behalf of the Committee, I would like once again to express the firm hope that decisions of such fundamental importance will be taken in thorough consultation with all the parties concerned.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Paul **Badji**
Chairman
Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights
of the Palestinian People

04-27037 (E) 160304